Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 03441 202143Z

63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /121 W
---------- 000276
R 202105Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3441

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INAUGURAL
ADDRESS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3422

1. THE REACTION OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS AND OF THE PRESS TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S AUG 16 INAUGURAL ADDRESS HAS THUS FAR BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE.

2. SANTIAGO ACCORD LEADERS HAVE NO YET FORMULATED DEFINITIVE REACTIONS TO THE SPEECH. OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND MEETING JOINTLY AS PARTIES TO THE SANTIAGO ACCORD, ARE EXPECTED TO RESPOND FORMALLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND HIS CALL FOR REOPENING A GODR OPPOSITION DIALOGUE. REPORTEDLY THE SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES ARE DISPOSED TO ACCEPT RESUMPTION OF A GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION DIALOGUE PROVIDED IT IS CONDUCTED DIRECTLY BETWEEN THEPARTIES AND THEGOVERNMENT AND NOT EXCLUSIVELY IN THE FORM OF ALLOCATING PUBLIC OFFICES TO INDIVIDUAL OPPOSITION LEADERS.

3. MEANWHILE, MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS HAVE MADE CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 03441 202143Z

PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO SECRETARY GENERAL PENA

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

GOMEZ TERMED IT QTE INTERESTING UNQTE. PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO SOCIAL CRISTIANO PRESIDENT, DELGADO BOGAERT, STATED THAT IT CONTAINED QTE POSITIVE POINTS UNQTE. PARTIDO QUISQUEYANO DEMOCRATA SECRETARY GENERAL, CAMPILLO PEREZ, REACTED FAVORABLY BUT EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BECOME LAW BEFORE GIVING A FINAL ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BALAGUER'S PROPOSALS. AMONG THE MAJOR OPPOSITION POLITICAL FIGURES, ONLY JUAN BOSCH, INCREASINGLY ISOLATED LEADER OF THE PARTIDO DE LA LIBERACION DOMINICANA, REACTED TOTALLY NEGATIVELY; HE TERMED THE AMENDMENTS QTE A TRICK UNQTE AND QUESTIONED THE PRESIDENT'S GOOD FAITH IN PRESENTING THEM.

4. VIRTUALLY ALL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO THE POLITICAL INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY BALAGUER. MODERATE AND INFLUENTIAL LISTIN DIARIO EDITORIALIZED ON AUG 17 THAT BALAGUER'S SPEECH HAD MADE HISTORY QTE OF THE FIRST MAGNITUDE UNQTE. THE PROHIBITION AGAINST REELECTION QTE IS AN INITIATIVE WHICH WILL REORIENT THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE NATION UNQTE. BALAGUER QTE OPENED ROADS, AWAKENED HOPES AND CALLED ALL DOMINICANS TO THE TASK OF CIVILIZATION UNQTE. PRESTIGIOUS EL CARIBE IN AN EDITORIAL ON AUG 17 TERMED THE SPEECH QTE ONE OF THE PRESIDENT'S BEST, BY ITS FORM AND DEPTH UNQTE. MOREOVER, THE PAPER ENCOURAGED THE QTE GOOD FAITH UNQTE OF THE OPPOSITION IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS AND SAID THAT BALAGUER HAD FULLY EXTENDED TO THEM QTE THE OLIVE BRANCH UNQTE. CARIBE DID EXPRESS SOME RESERVATIONS, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE ECONOMIC SECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. EVEN THE NATIONALISTIC, OFTEN IRRESPONSIBLE, AFTERNOON PRESS GAVE THE PRESIDENT GOOD MARKS FOR HIS POLITICAL INITIATIVES; EL NACIONAL OF AUG 17 STATED QTE THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAS OPENED A RAY OF HOPE IN THE DARK NATIONAL PANORAMA UNQTE.

5. COMMENT: THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRESS REACTION WAS NOT UNEXPECTED. THE REACTION FROM THE OPPOSITION POLITICIANS IS, HOWEVER, SOMEWHAT SURPRISING AND ENCOURAGING, SINCE THE SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES, IN THE PAST, HAVE BEEN EVER READY TO SEE A NEFARIOUS PLOT IN ANY BALAGUER MOVE. FACTORS WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE OPPOSITIONS'S CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE REACTION SO FAR ARE THE SEEMING SINCERITY WITH WHICH BALAGUER
CONFIDENTIAL

ENCOURAGED RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCARATIZATION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE OPPOSITION'S LACK OF VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION LEADERS UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZE THAT NEIGHBORHOOD STRIKES CANNOT BE CONTINUED INDEFINITELY AND THAT A GENERAL STRIKE COULD BRING SEVERE REPRESSION. THUS, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES APPEAR TO HAVE GIVEN THE OPPOSITION SOME HOPE FOR GREATER LIBERALIZATION OF THE

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

GOVERNMENT AND FOR SOME DEGREE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE
GOVERNMENT PROCESS.
HURWITCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, PRESIDENT, SPEECHES, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO03441
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740229-0878
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740833/aaaabbyn.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTO DOMINGO 3422
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS
TAGS: PFOR, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005